

Melanie Blunt Biography

As Missouri's First Lady, Melanie is committed to helping her husband strengthen Missouri. She has traveled across our state talking with Missourians and listening to them share their hopes and aspirations.

She considers the experience both rewarding and invigorating. "Each day, I learn more about the challenges facing the people of Missouri, and I am certain that Matt is leading our state to a successful and rewarding future."

To support her commitment to women's and children's wellness, Melanie serves as Missouri's Honorary Chair for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Campaign. Melanie has participated in and led teams in the Susan Komen Race for the Cure®, and serves as spokesperson and honorary chair for the Susan G. Komen Mid-Missouri Affiliate.

Melanie also launched Missouri's first statewide award to honor Missouri women who are making history. She established the awards to recognize women in five categories: business and innovation, culture and humanities, education, health and wellness, and volunteerism, who graciously give their hearts and minds to make an historic contribution to enhance the lives of all Missourians.

Melanie is committed to protecting the welfare of Missouri's children. She currently serves as honorary chair of the Junior League of Springfield's Crisis Nursery, and has been involved with the project since its inception. The crisis nursery offers residential care for children ages birth to 12 and provides families in crisis with education, support and training. To ensure the safety of Missouri children from internet predators, she is a member of the Internet Keep Safe Coalition.

Melanie is a member of the Regional Board of Directors for Boys and Girls Town of Missouri. She is the State Ambassador for Scholastic Read for 2006 and 2007, and has participated in Habitat for Humanity's Women's Build.

In addition to her support for women's and children's wellness, Melanie also believes the arts have an important and immeasurable impact on our culture and families and serves as the honorary chair of the Missouri Citizen's of the Arts. As honorary chair she acts as ambassador for the non-profit arts advocacy organization.

The First Lady has joined the Governor to ensure immunization cards are issued to every Missouri newborn. She has also supported Missouri's new Amber Alert Portal System, Child Passenger Safety Week, and the Missouri Child Resource and Referral Network. Melanie has also participated in the Mid-Missouri Chapter of the American Red Cross Heart of a Hero event. She is a member of the Jefferson City Parents As Teachers Advisory Council, and an Ex-Officio member of the Board of Directors of Missouri Mansion Preservation, Inc.

Melanie Anderson Blunt was born in the small community of Middleburg, Virginia. After graduating from high school, Melanie attended James Madison University and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Fashion Merchandising. After college, Melanie managed retail stores for the Limited Inc., Britches and Talbots.

Melanie met Matt in 1996 while he was serving in the United States Navy. They were married the following year. After Matt left active naval duty, the couple moved to a home near Matt's birthplace in Springfield, Missouri. Melanie and Matt have one son, William Branch Blunt, who celebrated his third birthday on March 9, 2008.

Melanie, who is pleased to serve the people of Missouri at her husband's side, is the youngest First Lady in the nation.